

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 EB-08 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9707

UNCLAS MANILA 13586

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, RP

SUBJECT: RE INFORMATION ON GOP RUBBER FOOTWEAR

INDUSTRY

REF: STATE 177181

1. DETAILED INFORMATION ON PHILIPPINE RUBBER FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY NOT COMPILED ON REGULAR BASIS BY ANY PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENT ENTITY. A, B, AND C OF THE FOLLOWING ARE AGGREGATE STATISTICS CONCERNING RUBBER FOOTWEAR AS A WHOLE, INCLUDING SNEAKERS, SLIPPERS AND RUBBER BOOTS. E AND F PERTAIN ONLY TO RUBBER AND CANVAS (SNEAKERS) FOOTWEAR.

- A. THERE ARE 16 LARGE ESTABLISHMENTS AND 80 SMALL FIRMS MANUFACTURING RUBBER FOOTWEAR IN PHILIPPINES. LARGEST PRODUCER IS RUBBERWORLD, PHILIPPINES, WHICH NOW EXPORTS ABOUT 70 PCT OF PRODUCTION TO U.S.

- B. 3,385 WORKERS ARE EMPLOYED IN LARGE ESTABLISHMENTS, AND 400 WORK IN SMALL COMPANIES.

- C. THE AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE FOR PRODUCTION WORKERS IN INDUSTRY IS PESOS 2.05 OR \$0.27.

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- D. ALL FOOTWEAR, INCLUDING RUBBER FOOTWEAR, RECEIVE NUMBER OF INCENTIVES FOR EXPORT UNDER EIGHTH EXPORT PRIORITIES PLAN, THOUGH RUBBER FOOTWEAR RECEIVES NO SPECIAL INCENTIVES OF ITS OWN. MOST IMPORTANT OF INCENTIVES ARE EXEMPTIONS FROM IMPORT DUTY, COMPENSATING TAX AND CUSTOMS DUTIES ON IMPORTED MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT AND

SPARE PARTS (RECENTLY AMENDED TO STRAIGHT 10 PCT TAX),
EXEMPTION FROM INTERNAL TAXES EXCEPT INCOME TAX, AND
ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION.

- E. TWO METHODS ARE USED FOR PRODUCING SNEAKERS, HAND-
MADE AND PCV-INJECTED. FIRST METHOD INVOLVES MAKING
SOLES BY FORMING RUBBER SLABS MADE OF IMPORTED SYNTHETIC
RUBBER, CHEMICALS, AND RESINS AND DOMESTIC NATURAL RUBBER,
CUTTING THEM ROUGHLY BY HAND, AND MOLDING THEM INTO SHAPE
WITH POWER PRESSES. THE UPPER IS CUT BY HAND FROM CANVAS
SHEETS AND STITCHED WITH SEWING MACHINES. THE TWO PIECES
ARE THEN GLUED TOGETHER. PCV-INJECTION, EMPLOYED LESS
FREQUENTLY BECAUSE OF ITS HIGH CAPITAL COST, IS PRACTICED
MUCH THE SAME AS IN OTHER PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

F. ROUGH EST-
IMATE OF PRODUCTION BY 1980 IS 10 MILLION
PAIRS. ROUGH ESTIMATE OF EXPORT BY 1980 IS 6.5 - 7.0
MILLION PAIRS. MURPHY

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